



BurningManEIS, BLM\_NV &lt;blm\_nv\_burningmaneis@blm.gov&gt;

## [EXTERNAL] Burning Man Environmental Impact statement Response

1 message

Rob Stepien &lt;rob.stepien@dps.state.nv.us&gt;

Fri, Mar 29, 2019 at 10:59 AM

To: "blm\_nv\_burningmaneis@blm.gov" &lt;blm\_nv\_burningmaneis@blm.gov&gt;

Cc: "Fuess, Michael J (MFuess@dot.nv.gov)" &lt;MFuess@dot.nv.gov&gt;, "Dyson, Thor A (TDyson@dot.nv.gov)" &lt;TDyson@dot.nv.gov&gt;

Good afternoon BLM Field Manager Hall,

I received your letter dated March 15<sup>th</sup> sent to NHP regarding the EISS for Burning Man. My area of command is all of Northern Nevada and the Burning Man events falls within that jurisdiction.

Having worked the event myself from various perspectives for the last 5+ years, we'd (NHP) like to share our professional opinion on the matter to you, as requested in the letter.

NHP does not support or suggest that the event population should be approved for increase. The following are risk factors associated with event population increasing and even its current allowable limit.

- L.E. agencies and especially NHP, are already finding it difficult to staff the event days properly and safely each year, due to region staffing levels and shortages. There have been shifts left open because of this fact. There are no significant approved staffing increases to our agency for at least the next 3 years. The Reno area has the highest vacancy rate in the state currently.
- The current traffic congestion caused by the event, i.e. ingress and egress and everywhere in between, causes a great deal of strain, to state it mildly, to the main highway and arterial routes to and from the event.
- This strain includes but is not limited to an significant increase in crashes, injuries, impaired drivers, arrests and jail bookings, stalled and abandoned vehicles, mass congestion events, displacements and lastly, trash and debris all over roadways and highways.

NHP's 1st suggestion is option #1 - capping the total population to 50,000

2<sup>nd</sup> is option #3 - capping the population to 80,000

Thank you for the opportunity to weigh in on the matter.

Sincerely,

Major Rob Stepien

Deputy Chief, Nevada Highway Patrol

775-687-9628

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